A Brief Guide for Families, Organizations and Public Officials

Resources to inform, support and prepare families for a possible return to Mexico

RETURNING TO MEXICO

Once I am in Mexico, how can I bring my children?

- Parents have the right to have their children with them and live together in Mexico as long as both parents who have custodial rights over the children agree with the living arrangement and the parent does not have any other legal constraints.
- Parents have the right to have their children with them as long as no legal matter is pending with a child welfare agency, dependency court, or family court in the United States.
- If your children are in custody of a friend or family member in the U.S. who is willing and able to lend and send them to you in Mexico, both parents will need to sign a travel authorization document to allow the child to leave the U.S. and enter Mexico without his or her parents accompanying them.
- If your children are in custody of the State or an individual who is unwilling to send them to Mexico, you will need to participate in or initiate custody proceedings to have your children returned to you in Mexico. (See **custody chart** for more information)

A child of a Mexican national who is born in the United States will NOT lose U.S. citizenship if the person (either a child or adult) acquires Mexican citizenship. If Mexican citizenship is acquired, this person would have DUAL CITIZENSHIP. They would therefore have the right to access all public services in Mexico. Once in Mexico, as a US citizen, this individual would also be able to obtain a U.S. passport or Social Security number at the **U.S. Embassy** in Mexico City or a regional consular office. People with dual citizenship are able to travel freely to and from the United States and any other country they choose.

